

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 19, 2005. Claims 1-4, 6,-11, 13-18, 20, 21, 23, 24, and 26 are presented for examination, of which Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23 are in independent form. Claims 5, 12, 19, 22, and 25 have been cancelled, without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter presented therein, and Claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, and 23 have been amended to define Applicant's invention more clearly. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Office Action indicates that the rejection of Claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter, is maintained. Cancellation of Claim 22 renders its rejection moot.

The Office Action states that Claims 1-4, 7-11, 14-18, 21, 23, and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,126,858 (Kurogane et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,905,935 (Wakamatsu et al.); and that Claims 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 25, and 26 are rejected under § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kurogane et al. in view of Wakamatsu et al., and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,045,158 (Bergstresser). Cancellation of Claims 5, 12, 19, and 25 renders their rejections moot. Applicant submits that independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23, together with the remaining claims dependent therefrom, are patentably distinct from the cited references for at least the following reasons.

An aspect of the present invention, as set forth in Claim 1, is directed to a print controlling apparatus that controls a printing device. The printing device outputs as one document a mixture of a first print paper that is not to be folded and a second print paper that is

to be folded into a predetermined form. The first print paper and the second print paper are different in size from each other.

The print controlling apparatus includes input means, producing means, and control means. The input means functions to input information representing a presence/absence of a fold designation by an operator. The producing means functions to produce print data by adding additional information to information to be printed. The control means controls a print position of the additional information on a print image corresponding to the print data produced by the producing means, based on the presence/absence of the fold designation inputted by the input means. The control means controls the print position to be different for the first print paper in comparison with the second print paper, such that the additional information on the second print paper, which is folded, is recognizable at a glance without opening the folded second print paper, as is the additional information on the first print paper, which is not folded.

One of the notable features of Claim 1 is that the print controlling apparatus controls the printing device to output as one document a mixture of print paper of different sizes, some of which is to be folded. Another notable feature of Claim 1 is that additional information is printed on the folded print paper such that the additional information is recognizable at a glance without opening or unfolding the folded print paper.

As shown in Figs. 7A-7C and 8A-8C, the additional information on the second print paper, which is folded, (e.g., date "99/12/31" and page number "19" in Figs. 7C and 8C) is recognizable at a glance without opening the folded second print paper, as is the additional information on the first print paper, which is not folded, (e.g., "99/12/31" and "18" in Figs. 7A and 8A). Because the additional information is printed on the first print paper, which is not to be

folded (Figs. 7A and 8A), and the second print paper, which is to be folded (Figs. 7B and 8B), such that the additional information on the second print paper when folded (Figs. 7C and 8C) is consistent with that on the first print paper (Figs. 7A and 8A), then the second print paper (e.g., A3 sized paper) when folded appears to have identical markings as the first print paper (e.g., A4 sized paper) and there are no inconsistencies in the additional information between the first and second print papers.

Kurogane et al. relates to a picture image processing system that performs picture image editing and composing functions, such that processed picture image information, such as numerals and messages, are composed and outputted at several positions on a sheet of paper. Wakamatsu et al. relates to a copying-machine finisher that folds paper into a Z shape and that includes an operation panel on which an ON/OFF operation is conducted. Bergstresser relates to a folding technique that exposes margin areas where index information can be printed.

Nothing has been found in Kurogane et al., Wakamatsu et al., nor Bergstresser that is believed to teach or suggest a print controlling apparatus that controls a printing device to output “as one document” a mixture of a first print paper, which is not to be folded, and a second print paper, which is to be folded into a predetermined form, wherein the first print paper and the second print paper are different in size from each other, and wherein the print position of additional information is controlled to be different for the first print paper in comparison with the second print paper, “such that the additional information on the second print paper, which is folded, is recognizable at a glance without opening the folded second print paper, as is the additional information on the first print paper, which is not folded,” as recited in Claim 1.

The Office Action states that Wakamatsu et al., in Fig. 15B, teaches that a printing device outputs a mixture of a first print paper that is not to be folded and a second print paper that is to be folded into a predetermined form, and that the first print paper and the second print paper are different in size from each other. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

As understood by Applicant, Wakamatsu et al. detects the size of an original upon copying. Fig. 15B shows a management table that indicates whether a copied image is to be reduced or folded according to the detected size. Therefore, Wakamatsu et al. fails to teach or suggest outputting a mixture of different-sized papers.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is patentable over the cited references and respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Independent Claims 8, 15, and 23 include features similar to those discussed above in connection with Claim 1 and therefore are believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. The other rejected claims remaining in this application depend from one or another of independent Claims 1, 8, 15, and 23 and therefore are submitted to be patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim also is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual reconsideration of the patentability of each claim on its own merits is respectfully requested.

The present Amendment After Final Action is believed clearly to place this application in condition for allowance. Therefore, entry of this Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 is believed proper and is respectfully requested, as an earnest effort to advance prosecution and reduce the number of issues. Should the Examiner believe that issues remain

outstanding, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned attorney in an effort to resolve such issues and advance the case to issue.

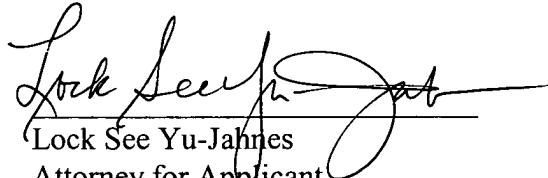
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration and an early passage to issue of this application.

No petition to extend the time for response to the Office Action is deemed necessary for the present Amendment. If, however, such a petition is required to make this Amendment timely filed, then this paper should be considered such a petition and the Commissioner is authorized to charge the requisite petition fee to Deposit Account 06-1205.

CONCLUSION

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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